

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of operating a fuser unit for duplex printing, comprising:

providing a hot roll and a backup roll in nipped relation, and a drive system including a drive motor for causing the rotation of the rolls;

5 operating the motor at a first process speed in a first direction for advancing media

between the hot roll and backup roll for fusing an image on a first side of the media;

reversing the direction of operation of the motor to begin duplex routing of the media by operating the motor in an opposite direction from the first direction;

re-reversing the direction of operation of the motor while media is routed back to the nip

10 formed between the hot roll and the backup roll before the media leaves the fuser unit;

disengaging the hot roll and the backup roll from the drive system during the reversing step, said re-reversing step occurring when the media has been pulled back into the fuser unit far enough to clear a set of output rolls of the fuser unit; and

15 operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed for a time to drive the hot roll while the media is being routed back to the nip formed between the hot roll and the backup roll.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, said step of operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed being performed by operating the motor at a speed of about twice the first process speed.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, said fuser having a second process speed greater than the first process speed, and said step of operating the motor at a speed greater than the first speed being performed by operating the motor at the second process speed.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, said step of operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed being performed by operating the motor at a speed of about twice the first speed.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, said fuser being operated in a one-image mode.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, said step of operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed being performed by operating the motor at a speed of about twice the first process speed.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, including the additional step of stopping the media during duplex routing.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, said fuser being operated in a two-image mode.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, said step of operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed being performed by operating the motor at a speed of about twice the first process speed.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, including preheating the backup roll before said step of operating the motor at a first process speed in a first direction for advancing media between the hot roll and backup roll for fusing an image on a first side of the media.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, said preheating performed by rotating the hot roll and the backup roll at greater than the first process speed.

12. (currently amended) A method of operating a fuser unit for duplex printing, comprising:

providing a hot roll and a backup roll in nipped relation, and a drive system including a drive motor for causing the rotation of the rolls;

5 operating the motor at a first process speed in a first direction for advancing media between the hot roll and backup roll for fusing an image on a first side of the media;

stopping rotation of the hot roll and the backup roll after fusing an image on a first side of the media while the drive motor rotates, said stopping rotation step occurring before the media leaves the fuser unit;

10 resuming rotation of the hot roll and the backup roll before advancing the media between the hot roll and the backup roll for fusing an image on a second side of the media, said resuming rotation step occurring when the media has been pulled back into the fuser unit far enough to clear a set of output rolls of the fuser unit; and

15 operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed to drive the hot roll after said resuming rotation step while the media is apart from the fuser unit.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, said step of operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed being performed by operating the motor at a speed of about twice the first process speed.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, said fuser being operated in a one-image mode.

15. (original) The method of claim 12, said fuser being operated in a two-image mode.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, said step of operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed being performed by operating the motor at a speed of about twice the first process speed.

17. (original) The method of claim 12, said fuser being operated in a one-image mode.

18. (original) The method of claim 12, including preheating the backup roll before said step of operating the motor at a first process speed in a first direction for advancing media between the hot roll and backup roll for fusing an image on a first side of the media.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, said preheating performed by rotating the hot roll and the backup roll at greater than the first process speed

20. (currently amended) A method of operating a fuser unit for duplex printing, comprising:

providing a hot roll and a backup roll in nipped relation, and a drive system including a drive motor and drive train for causing the rotation of the rolls;

5 operating the motor at a first process speed in a first direction for advancing media

between the hot roll and backup roll for fusing an image on a first side of the media;

disengaging the hot roll from the drive train after fusing an image on a first side of the media;

re-engaging the hot roll with the drive train before ~~advancing the media between the hot roll and the backup roll for fusing an image on a second side of the media leaves the fuser unit once the media clears a set of output rolls of the fuser unit~~; and

operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed to drive the hot roll after said step of re-engaging the hot roll with the drive train and before the media returns to the fuser unit.

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21. (original) The method of claim 20, said step of operating the motor at a speed greater than the first process speed being performed by operating the motor at a speed of about twice the first process speed.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of re-engaging the hot roll and the backup roll with the drive system during the re-reversing step.